REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-11, 13, 18, 36 and 37 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1 and 18 being independent.

The title has been amended to be more clearly indicative of the claimed invention. In addition, an abstract of the disclosure has been added.

Independent Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art. In addition, editorial changes have been made to selected claims. The editorial changes address the informalities identified in paragraph 2 (pages 2 and 3) of the Office Action. In addition, Claim 37 has been added to provide an additional scope of protection, and Claims 2-5, 12, 14-17, 31 and 35 have been cancelled.

Claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. As noted above, Claim 35 has been cancelled. This rejection is therefore deemed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 14, 15, 18, 31, 35 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Negishi '278. Claims 2-13, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Negishi in view of Birkler '103. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of Applicants' invention relates to an information processing method for maintaining, in a system in which each of a plurality of client processes connected via an information transmission medium holds and uses shared data to be shared by the plurality of client processes, consistency of shared data held by the respective plurality of client processes.

The method includes an input step of inputting a manipulation request, a determining step of determining a mode corresponding to the input manipulation request, from a plurality of modes including a first mode and a second mode, and a processing step of executing a process corresponding to the manipulation request in accordance with the determined mode. The processing step includes a sending step of sending, when the manipulation request requests a manipulation of the shared data, request information that represents the manipulation request to a server process, a reception step of receiving response information corresponding to the request information sent in the sending step, from the server process, and a manipulation execution step of executing a manipulation for the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request or the response information received in the reception step.

Claim 1, as amended, sets forth that, in a case where it is determined that the mode corresponding to the input manipulation request is the first mode, the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data in response to the manipulation request and the sending data sends the request information indicating the manipulation request to the server process. In a case where it is determined that the mode corresponding to the input manipulation request is the second mode, the sending step sends the request information indicating the manipulation request to the server process in response to the manipulation request. The manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data based on the manipulation request indicated by the reception information in response to reception of the reception information when the reception information is received from the server process within a time limit of manipulation execution. The manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data in accordance with the

manipulation request corresponding to the request information when the reception information is not received from the server process within a time limit.

In accordance with Applicants' invention, a high performance method of manipulating shared data can be provided.

The patent to Negishi relates to a system for sharing data between multiple computers A and B. The Office Action asserts that Negishi includes an output step, a reception step and a manipulation execution step for manipulating shared data in accordance with a manipulation request.

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, however, Negishi does not teach or suggest, among other features, manipulating shared data based on a first or second mode and performing a manipulation execution step to manipulate the shared data based on whether the reception information is received within a time limit, as set forth in Claim 1 of Applicants' invention. To the contrary, the data in Negishi is manipulated to control a correct order of manipulation requests, regardless of when they are received, in order to update replica and save memory space.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Negishi fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claim 1.

Claim 18 relates to an information processing apparatus and corresponds substantially to Claim 1. Claim 18 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Negishi for the same reasons discussed above.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

The secondary citation to <u>Birkler</u> relates to an instant messaging system and is relied upon for its teaching of executing manipulation after receiving corresponding response information. <u>Birkler</u> fails, however, to compensate for the deficiencies in <u>Negishi</u> as discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 18. Therefore, the proposed combination of <u>Negishi</u> and <u>Birkler</u>, even if proper, still fails to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claims 1 and 18 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 6-11, 13, 36 and 37 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed Japanese documents are also enclosed.

The concise explanations of relevance for the non-English documents are provided by their accompanying English-language abstracts.

For the Examiner's information, U.S. Patent No. 6,012,081 corresponds to Japanese Document No. 10-124330, and U.S. Patent Publication Application No. 2003-0037111 corresponds to Japanese Document No. 2001-273219.

Applicants certify under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in the subject information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Specifically, these documents were first cited in a Japanese Office Action dated August 24, 2007, in a corresponding European patent application. A copy of the Office Action that issued on that related application is enclosed.

As will be appreciated, the documents listed in the Japanese Office Action that are not included herewith were previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement of May 12, 2005.

Applicants are also including a second disclosure citation form (PTO-1449) listing a publication by G. Hesina, et al. This publication was listed in the previous Information Disclosure Statement of May 12, 2005, but the Examiner's initials were not provided on the PTO-1449 form attached to the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initial this second disclosure citation form to indicate consideration of the document identified thereon.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Forms PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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